

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2012

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by CAC Co-Chair Bob Joiner at the Maple Grove Government Center

Members Present

Stephen Gill	Lorraine Gresser	Bob Joiner
Tim Klevar	Pam Larson	Steven Maas
Joan Masberg	Kevin Rebman	Don Skoglund

Members Absent

John Beacham, Leslie Bender, Linda Furst, Greg Hulne, Harry Kennedy, Joe Piket.

Others Present

Councilmember Phil Leith, City Administrator Al Madsen, and CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz.

Minutes

The minutes for the October 10, 2012 regular CAC meeting were approved.

Introduction

The high school students and scout troop in attendance introduced themselves. Co-Chair Joiner provided a brief overview of the CAC to the guests.

Area Reports

As a follow up to discussion at the October CAC meeting, Lorraine Gresser stated there is no nursing home in Maple Grove. Rose Arbor is assisted living. The City may wish to consider a nursing home as an additional way to create jobs.

A thank you was offered for the completion of the Bass Lake Road and Weaver Lake Road expansion projects.

Role and Purpose of CAC Discussion

City Administrator Al Madsen distributed a memo dated November 14, 2012 in response to some of the questions that arose out of the October 10, 2012 CAC meeting. He reviewed the various aspects of the memo and the following points and discussion ensued from those:

Mr. Madsen talked about the land use plans for the City—both for the gravel mining area and the City overall. With regard to the Gravel Mining Area land use plan, Councilmember Leith stated that taller buildings and office campuses are part of the future plans.

The question was asked about additional medical development in the area of the hospital. It was mentioned the hospital is considering developing a medical/office building separate from the hospital itself.

The question was poised to Mr. Madsen as to what he thought the City's biggest weakness was. He stated that five years ago he would have said

transportation, but that is not the case today. Several items that he mentioned are:

- Tax abatement/incentives/tax increment financing—he stated these have not been standard practice for Maple Grove.
- Special legislation for TIF district in the Gravel Mining Area. This legislation was part of a bigger bill vetoed by the Governor in 2012. The City expects that legislation to be coming back in 2013.
- High cost of development in Gravel Mining Area.
- Completion of 610.

The question was asked if there is a role the CAC can play in the completion of Highway 610. Suggestions included: letters to Washington politicians, state reps, senators, and the governor. In addition, CAC could adopt a resolution.

Two suggestions were made of areas that CAC could consider involvement:

- Citizen survey
- Basketball facility proposal by OMGBA

The CAC could play a project management/overview role as was done with the sports dome and second sheet of ice.

The statement was made that it is healthy and important to have consistent and continued citizen involvement and input.

Discussion took place on a wards system as well as a primary election for Council candidates. It was mentioned that a wards system would require a restructure of the City governance, and that it was not well received when reviewed/discussed previously. The question was asked if the City Council had an interest in a primary for Council seats. It was stated there would be added costs for staff, election judges to include that in the primary.

Mention was made of a joint meeting with the City Council and Citizens Advisory Committee to discuss items in which the CAC could be involved. It was stated that an agenda would be needed and mention was made of a creating a subcommittee for setting an agenda.

Mr. Madsen talked about the Economic Development Commission and the role it played in the City. While it is not active and hasn't been for a number of years, the EDC has not been disbanded.

Question was brought up about what role the Council wants CAC to play. It was stated that more of an exploratory role in projects.

Mr. Madsen stated that if CAC is running out of things, they should stop meeting or meet as needed.

Mention was again made of the citizen survey as well as the basketball facility for which a proposal is expected. The suggestion was made for CAC to make a list of things to review and address and give a presentation to the City Council.

Discussion took place on the Osseo Maple Grove Basketball Association project for additional gym space for basketball practice, games and tournaments.

The question was asked about any plans for a convention center and discussion ensued. The Reflections project proposal included a convention center, but that project went nowhere. Convention centers that were mentioned included those in Brooklyn Center, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

Mr. Madsen reviewed the Silvercrest Properties development planned for 2013—senior housing and different levels of care and services.

CAC outlined the following next steps:

1. Move forward with citizen survey; ask the City Council to get approval for survey.
2. Address the OMGBA proposed facility when the time is appropriate.
3. Look at other topics; visit with Council.

Mention was made that several “techy” CAC members visit with the City’s GIS Administrator Mike Eberle to review the City’s work with fiber optics technology. Discussed ensued on fiber optics and it is a big plus to the City, particularly for attracting business development.

Discussion continued on the proposed citizen survey, such as the format—online, phone, cell phone. National Research Center was used for the last survey, and they set up the survey/results/benchmarks that it would work well to continue to work with them into the future. The question was asked if a Request for Proposal would be needed.

Motion made to ask the City Council’s permission to address and proceed with a citizen survey in 2013. Motion seconded. 9 ayes; no nays.

The next meeting for the CAC will be January 9, 2013.

**Other Business/
Updates**

The comment was made that the elections went very well, and the judges were well trained. Deputy City Clerk Stevie Koll Anderson and her election staff are to be commended.

The following projects were mentioned/briefly discussed:

- Redstone restaurant opening late November.
- Whole Foods Market should open in 2013.
- Whirlyball.
- Goodwill second location.
- Hospital expansion almost complete.
- Aldi started construction.
- Spire credit union project is moving along well.
- Chick-fil-a still coming.
- Z's Smokin' Bonez.
- Multi-tenant facility in Wedgewood Commerce Center.
- Financing package for grocery store/housing in southwest Maple Grove.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary